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MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL!

The HULK AND POWER MAN AND IRON FIST

BAH!
HULK WILL
SMASH
THEM,
ALL!

HOW'RE YA
GONNA GET US
OUT OF THIS
ONE, FIST?

ME?! I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
GETTING
US OUT
OF IT!

GUEST-STARRING:
MACHINE MAN!

WHAT
FOOLS
THESE
MORTALS
BE!

PLUS: A VERY BRIEF
CAMEO BY WHAT'S-
HIS-NAME!



MAYHEM IN MIDDLE AMERICA!

FM
JR

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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

The **HULK!** **POWER MAN**
AND IRON FIST & **MACHINE man**

CHAPTER
ONE

**MONSTER in
the MEADOW**

STUPID TREES ARE
TOO CLOSE TOGETHER
FOR THE HULK TO PASS!
TREES WILL HAVE TO
MOVE!



ROGER STERN | HERB TRIMPE
writer | pencils

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letters | colors

DENNIS O'NEIL | JIM SHOOTER
guidance | forest ranger

INTRODUCING THE INCREDIBLE HULK--
SEVEN FEET TALL AND A HALF A TON OF
GREEN-SKINNED GAMMA-IRRADIATED
SAVAGERY! THE HULK IS ALMOST NEVER
IN A GOOD MOOD... AND TODAY, HE IS
ESPECIALLY MAD AT THE WORLD!

Inks this chapter by: MIKE ESPOSITO

AND WHEN THE HULK IS REALLY
MAD, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN...

GOOD...THERE ARE
NOT AS MANY TREES
HERE! AT LAST,
HULK HAS SOME
ROOM! AT LAST!
HULK IS ALONE!

YES... ALONE. NOBODY
REALLY WANTS THE
HULK AROUND—EVEN
HULK'S FRIENDS
FEAR HIM! IT IS BETTER
TO BE ALONE.

HULK DOESN'T NEED
ANYONE, ANYWAY! HULK...
LIKES IT HERE! WATER
IS EVEN CLEAN AND
FRESH... NOT LIKE
SOME PLACES!

BUT AS THE EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST MORTAL BEING
PAUSES TO QUENCH HIS
THIRST, HE IS LITTLE AWARE
THAT HIS SOLITUDE IS ABOUT
TO END!

HIGH OVERHEAD, A BIZARRE FLYING CRAFT
HOVERS ON SOFTLY WHISPERING JETS OF AIR—
ITS PILOT, WATCHING THE HULK WITH GROWING
INTEREST!

MY GAMMA-RAY TRACER
WORKED JUST LIKE I HOPED! I'VE
FOUND MY BIG, GREEN PIGEON!

IN SECONDS, THE CRAFT SILENTLY
COMES TO GROUND, NOT FAR BEHIND
THE DRINKING BEHEMOTH...

ON CAT-FEET, THE SLENDER
FIGURE APPROACHES THE HULK—
AND WHEN BARELY FIVE YARDS
SEPARATE THEM, THE WEIRD
MACHINE SUDDENLY
HUMS TO LIFE...

...SENDING ITS HIGH-
FREQUENCY SIGNAL KNIFING
DEEP INTO THE MAN-
MONSTER'S CRANUM!

I HAVE TO WORK FAST, BEFORE HE
NOTICES ME! IF I CAN JUST ENTHRALLED
WITH MY IMPROVED METO-PROBE, I'LL
HAVE AN UNBEATABLE HELPER!

;UHH!: SOMETHING
IS MAKING HULK'S
HEAD HURT!

WHO IS
DOING THIS
TO THE
HULK?



SO! HOODED MAN WITH A
BUZZING MACHINE... YOU
ARE HURTING HULK'S
HEAD! STOP!

HEAR ME, HULK-- YOU
ARE IN MY POWER! IT
IS HOPELESS TO RESIST!

POWER? HULK IS IN
NOBODY'S POWER! HULK
IS THE STRONGEST ONE
THERE IS--

-- AND NO ONE
ORDERS HIM AROUND!
NO ONE!



FIRST, YOU HURT
HULK'S HEAD-- AND
THEN, YOU ORDER
HIM AROUND? YOU
MUST THINK THAT
THE HULK IS
STUPID!

AND THIS IS
WHAT HULK DOES
TO THE MEN
WHO USES THOSE
MACHINES...

NO!
OH,
NO!

YOU TRIED TO HURT
THE HULK! HULK WILL
SMASH YOU FOR
THAT!!

NO! STOP!
I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
HURT YOU!
I JUST--

HUH? HOODED MAN IS...
JUST A GIRL! HULK
DOESN'T UNDERSTAND!

--WANTED YOUR HELP!
PLEASE, DON'T HURT
ME! PLEASE!

GIRL... NIGHTSHADE
NEEDED HULK'S HELP?

THEY CALL ME NIGHTSHADE...
A-AND I DIDN'T KNOW MY
MACHINE WOULD HURT
YOUR HEAD!

IT'S JUST
THAT I NEEDED
YOUR HELP
SO BAD!

YES, HULK-- SOME
MEN HAVE A SPECIAL
PACKAGE THAT
BELONGS TO ME!

AND YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE I COULD
THINK OF WHO'S
STRONG ENOUGH
TO GET IT BACK!

HUH! IF GIRL
WANTED HULK'S
HELP, GIRL
SHOULD HAVE
ASKED HULK!

MEN HAVE
BOthered HULK
TOO MANY TIMES!
IF MEN STOLE YOUR
PACKAGE, HULK
WILL GET IT BACK!

THE HULK
COULD RIP APART
THE TALLEST BUILDING
WITH HIS HUGE HANDS,
YET HE PICKS UP
NIGHTSHADE AS
GENTLY AS A
MOTHER WOULD
HER CHILD.
TREMBLING IN
HIS GRASP, THE
YOUNG WOMAN
DIRECTS HIM TO
HER CRAFT--

...AND IN MINUTES, THEY DISAPPEAR
INTO THE GATHERING TWILIGHT!

CHAPTER
TWO

PAYOUT

THE WATERFRONT AREA OF MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE IS FAR FROM BEING THE PLEASANTEST CORNER OF THE WORLD.

HERE, THE FETID SCENT OF RIVER WATER AND WEEK-OLD FISH ASSAULTS THE NOSE. HERE, THE COLD HARBOR BREEZES CHILL THE BODY... IF NOT THE SOUL!

AND HERE, OFTEN COME HUMAN BEINGS WHO ARE JUST BARELY WORTHY OF THE NAME!

THAT'S IT, BIG GUY—
MAKE THAT DROP AN' EVERYTHING WILL BE JUST FINE!

THIS IS THE KIND OF PLACE WHERE MEN DO THINGS THEY WOULD THINK TWICE ABOUT DOING IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF DAY...

FOR INSTANCE, THE BATTERED OLD CASE THAT THE BIG MAN IN THE COAT AND HAT JUST DUMPED IN THE TRASH IS PART OF A VERY UNSAVORY SCHEME.

AND THAT SCHEME WAS PLANNED BY AN EQUALLY UNSAVORY INDIVIDUAL...

...THIS MAN, A CERTAIN ALFRED SAVIN.

--AN' ONCE YOU'RE OUT OF SIGHT, I'LL JUST MOSEY ON OVER AN' PICK UP THAT OLD CASE... LIKE I'M MAKIN' A GREAT DISCOVERY! HEH!

THAT'S IT, PALLY!
YOU JUST KEEP
ON WALKIN'--

OH, BEAUTIFUL--JUS'
BEAUTIFUL! FIVE
HUNDRED THOUSAND
BUCKS, AN' IT'S ALL
MINE! LIFE IS GONNA
BE REAL FINE FROM
HERE ON OUT!

AN' TO THINK,
I OWE IT ALL
TO ONE LITTLE
ROLL OF
PICTURES.

FATE MUSTA MEANT FOR
ME TO BE RICH... WHY ELSE
WOULD I HAVE SAVED THIS
FILM FROM THE DAYS WHEN
I WAS A PHOTOGRAPHER'S
ASSISTANT?

I MEAN, WHO'D HAVE
GUESSED THAT A POOR,
STRUGGLIN' ACTRESS--DOIN'
A SLEAZO MAGAZINE
SPREAD--WOULD GO ON TO
BECOME TV'S LITTLE DARLIN'?

'COURSE,
THE PICTURES
WERE NEVER
RUN--

--AN' SHE WAS WILLIN'
TO PAY PLENTY TO MAKE
SURE THEY NEVER DO!

HMM! NOW THAT
I THINK OF IT, MAYBE
SHE'D PAY EVEN MORE
YEAH, MAYBE I'LL
JUST HOLD ONTO
THIS!

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING
KEEPING THAT FILM, MR. GAVIN,
I'D ADVISE AGAINST IT!

HUH?
WHAT?!

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?!
I DIDN'T HERE A THING!

NOT SURPRISING...
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR
YOU TO HEAR ME.



I AM CALLED
IRON FIST, MR. SAVIN—
AND I'M AFRAID THAT GUN
WON'T DO YOU MUCH GOOD!

YOU'RE FROM OUT-OF-TOWN, AREN'T
YOU? ALL RIGHT, LET ME EXPLAIN A
FEW FACTS! THE WOMAN YOU'RE
BLACK MAILING HIRED MY
PARTNER AND ME TO
MAKE THIS DROP.

WE ADVISED HER
AGAINST IT—WE
FIGURED YOU'D
TRY SOMETHING
LIKE THIS! BUT,
SHE INSISTED.



TWO MORE THINGS YOU
SHOULD KNOW... ONE, SOME
PEOPLE CALL ME A LIVING
WEAPON... AND TWO, I
WANT THAT FILM!

Y-YOU DON'T SCARE ME!
I'VE BEEN HUSTLED BY
THE BEST OF 'EM! SO
JUST BACK OFF-- YA
HEAR ME? BACK OFF!



EVEN AS HIS LAST WORD HANGS ON
THE NIGHT AIR, IRON FIST BOLTS
FORWARD, DEFTLY SIDE-STEPPING THE
STEEL-JACKETED SHELLS THAT BLASTS
HIS WAY!



HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
IT AIN'T POSSIBLE-- IT
JUST AIN'T POSSIBLE!



--BUT IRON FIST
IS LIKE A SILENT
WRATH, NIMBLY
DUCKING BETWEEN
THE PATHS OF THE
BULLETS!



AGAIN AND
AGAIN, SAVIN
Fires--



--FEAR GNAWING
AT HIS GUT AS
HE EMPTIES THE
.45 AUTOMATIC AT
THE MARTIAL ARTS
MASTER!









HEROES FOR HIRE

AS NIGHT GIVES WAY TO MORNING ONCE AGAIN, NEW YORK CITY COMES BACK TO LIFE. BY NOON BOTH POWER MAN AND RON FIST MAKE THEIR WAY TO THIS PARK AVENUE BUILDING.

--WHERE THEY MAINTAIN A FOURTEENTH FLOOR BUSINESS OFFICE AS THE FIRM OF HEROES FOR HIRE BUSINESS OF LATE HAS BEEN GOOD . . . PERHAPS TOO GOOD!

YES, GENTLEMEN,
YOUR CREDENTIALS
HAVE GREATLY
IMPRESSIONED DELMAR
INSURANCE--

--AND SO IF YOU'LL TAKE
THE ASSIGNMENT, WE'D LIKE
TO ENGAGE YOUR SERVICES
FOR THE NEXT 48 HOURS.
YOUR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
JENNIE ROYCE TELLS ME
YOU'RE FREE...

...THAT IS CORRECT,
ISN'T IT, MS. ROYCE?

NOW JUST A MINUTE, JENNIE! I, FOR ONE, WOULD
LIKE TO HEAR JUST WHAT MR. JONES COMPANY
WANTS TO HIRE US FOR, BEFORE WE ACCEPT!

QUITE CORRECT
MR. JONES-- PROVIDED
THAT YOUR PREMIUM
PAYMENT IS STILL
BEING OFFERED!

CERTAINLY, MR. UH . . . FIST!
WHAT IS INVOLVED IS A
SPECIAL COURIER MISSION
ON BEHALF OF OUR
CLIENT, MS. JOY
MEACHUM, HERE!

SHEE-OOT! I
REMEMBER WHEN BROCK
JONES WAS THE GOLDEN
BOY OF PRO FOOTBALL...
AN' NOW HE'S SELLING
INSURANCE! WHAT'S
THE WORLD COMIN' TO?

inks this
Chapter by:
FRANK SPRINGER

I'M SURE YOU'RE
HEARD OF US.
MEACHUM'S
COMPANY RAND-
MEACHUM?

WELL, THEY'VE JUST
DEVELOPED AN IMPOR-
TANT NEW COMPUTER
CIRCUIT-- AND IT'S
IMPERATIVE THAT IT BE
TRANSPORTED TO A RAND-
MEACHUM RESEARCH
LAB NEAR CHICAGO!

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S
BEEN EVIDENCE OF AN
INFORMATION LEAK SOME-
BODY-- WE DON'T KNOW
WHO-- HAS FOUND OUT
ABOUT THE CIRCUIT

SO YOU WANT LIKE AND ME TO FERRY
IT TO CHICAGO, IS THAT IT? SEEMS LIKE
A LOT OF TROUBLE TO GO TO FOR
ONE GIZMO!

IT IS, BUT IT'S
NECESSARY! THE
CIRCUIT IS ONE OF A
KIND-- STUMBLED
ACROSS BY ACCIDENT
IT CAN'T BE DUPLI-
CATED UNTIL IT'S
ANALYZED IN
CHICAGO!

AS THE DISCUSSION
CONTINUES, JOY
MEACHUM STAYS CON-
SCIOUSLY SILENT,
GIVING ONLY SURPR-
ISINGLY AT RON FIST.

--A MAN SHE ALSO
KNOWS TO BE DANIEL
RAND! YEARS AGO,
THEIR FATHERS
FORMED RAND-
MEACHUM

THEY HAVE
MANY
DIFFERENCES
IN THE RECENT
PAST AND
ALTHOUGH THOSE
DIFFERENCES HAVE
BEEN SETTLED,
J.Y. IS STILL UN-
COMFORTABLE IN
DANNY'S PRESENCE,
MASKED OR NOT!

HEY, COULD I SAY
SOMETHING? LOOK,
I DON'T KNOW
'BOUT FIST BUT I'M
SICK AND TIRED OF
THESE NURSE-
MAID ASSIGNMENTS!



THE NAME
OF THIS PLACE
IS HEROES
FOR HIRE,
NOT RENT-
A-GUARD!



OH,
STOP GROUSSING,
LUKE! I KNOW YOUR
PREFERENCES-- BUT WHAT WOULD
YOU SAY IF I TOLD YOU THAT
DELMAR INSURANCE IS WILLING
TO PAY THREE TIMES OUR
NORMAL RATE?

THAT FIGURE IS CORRECT,
ISN'T IT, MR. JONES?

UH, YES, MS.
ROYCE

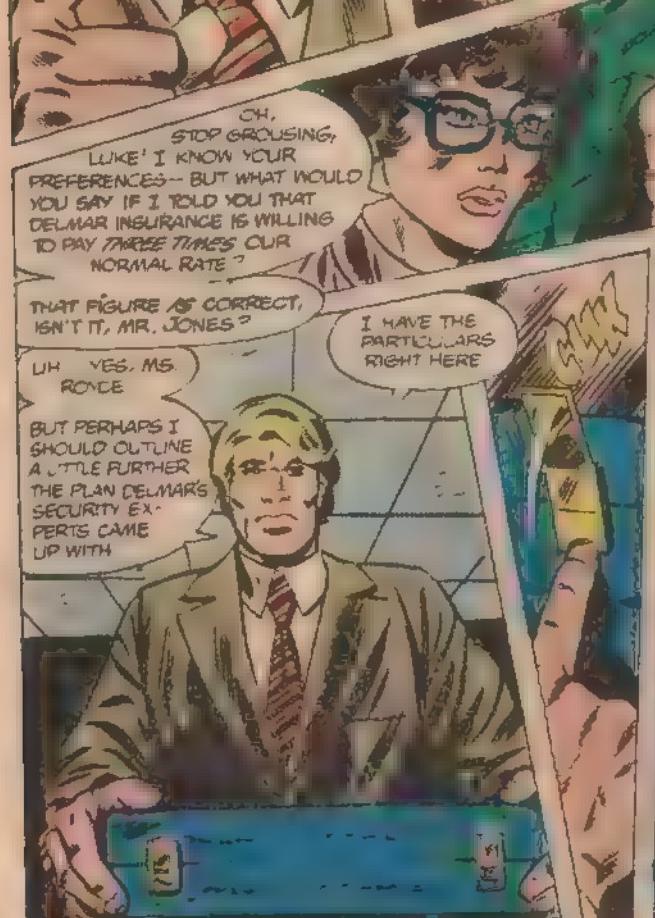
BUT PERHAPS I
SHOULD OUTLINE A LITTLE FURTHER
THE PLAN DELMAR'S SECURITY EXPERTS
CAME UP WITH

I HAVE THE
PARTICULARS
RIGHT HERE

WHAT WE'RE
SETTING UP IS ESSENTI-
ALLY A GENT DELET
IT'S OVER A DOZEN
INDEPENDENT OPERATIVES
WE HEAD FOR CHICAGO
WITH DYNON CIRCUITS,
BUT YOU TWO WILL HAVE
THE GENUINE ARTICLE

UH, THAT IS, IF
YOU'RE WILLING
TO--?

YEAH,
LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE IN!
JONES



LIKE IT
OR NOT?

BY LATE EVENING, A SOMEWHAT ANTIQUATED FREIGHT TRAIN RUMBLING THROUGH THE APPALACHIAN FOOTHILLS TOWARDS ITS DESTINATION - CHATTANOOGA TENNESSEE

FROM THERE, IT WILL SWITCH TO ANOTHER TRACK AND HEAD FOR NASHVILLE... FROM THERE TO MEMPHIS... AND FINALLY, AFTER A VERY CIRCUITOUS ROUTE, TO CHICAGO!

ANYONE WATCHING THIS TRAIN CLIMB OVER THE HILLS AND GULLIES WOULD THINK IT WAS JUST AN ORDINARY FREIGHT TRAIN

BUT THE CARGO OF ONE PARTICULAR CAR WOULD SURELY SURPRISE OBSERVERS FOR BEYOND THAT SOOTY EXTERIOR RIDES...

-- A MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR COMPUTER CIRCUIT AND TWO VERY SPECIAL GUARDS!

I'M TELLIN' YA,

FIST -- THIS HAS TO BE THE STUPIDEST JOB WE'VE EVER TAKEN! I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH THEY'RE PAYIN' US, NOTHIN' CAN BE WORTH SPENDIN' 30 HOURS COOPED UP IN A FURNISHED FREIGHT CAR!

OH, I DON'T KNOW.
LUKE! DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S IRONIC--

-- THAT WE'D WIND UP GUARDING SOMETHING MY OWN FATHER'S COMPANY DEVELOPED? I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE WORKINGS OF RAND-MEACHUM ORDINARILY, BUT I FIND ALL OF THESE PRECAUTIONS SORT OF INTRIGUING.

DELMAR'S JUST SCARED 'CAUSE THAT THING'S INSURED FOR SO MUCH! LOOK, THE WAY THAT THINGS SEALED AND BOLTED, IT'D TAKE ME A FEW MINUTES TO BREAK IT OPEN!

AN' LOOK AT THIS CAR WITH SUPER-REINFORCED STEEL WALLS! WHY DO THEY NEED US?

INTRIGUING?
BULL!

LUKE, YOU REMEMBER WHAT BROCK JONES SAID! THE DECOY OPERATIVES WILL FOOL ANY SMALL-TIME INDUSTRIAL SPIES WHO MIGHT WANT TO STEAL THE CIRCUIT.

AND IF THERE ARE ANY BIG TIME OPERATORS OUT THERE AFTER IT, WELL, WE'RE HERE TO STOP THEM!

SHOOT, FIST, NOBODY'S GONNA MESS WITH US LEAST WAYS NOBODY IN THEIR RIGHT MIND! AND IF THEY'RE BIG-TIME TO FIND OUT WHERE THE REAL CIRCUIT IS--



-- THEY'RE BIG-TIME ENOUGH TO KNOW WE'RE ON THE CASE!

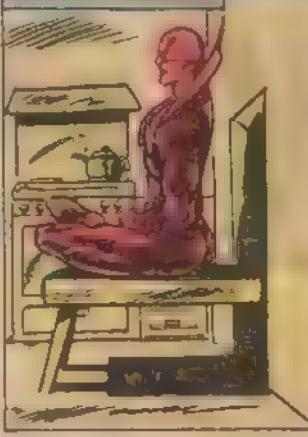
NOPE, ONLY THING THIS RIDE IS GOOD FOR IS CATCHIN' UP ON MY READIN'."

DO ME A FAVOR--IF I NOD OFF, DON'T WAKE ME!



THE MINUTES DRAG ON, TURNING INTO HOURS, AND FINALLY IRON FIST FOLLOWS HIS PARTNER'S EXAMPLE--

--BY UNFOLDING A SMALL BENCH AND SETTING INTO A LIGHT SLEEP



BUT, WITHIN MINUTES, HE AND LUKE ARE SUDDENLY SHAKEN OUT OF THEIR REVERIE...

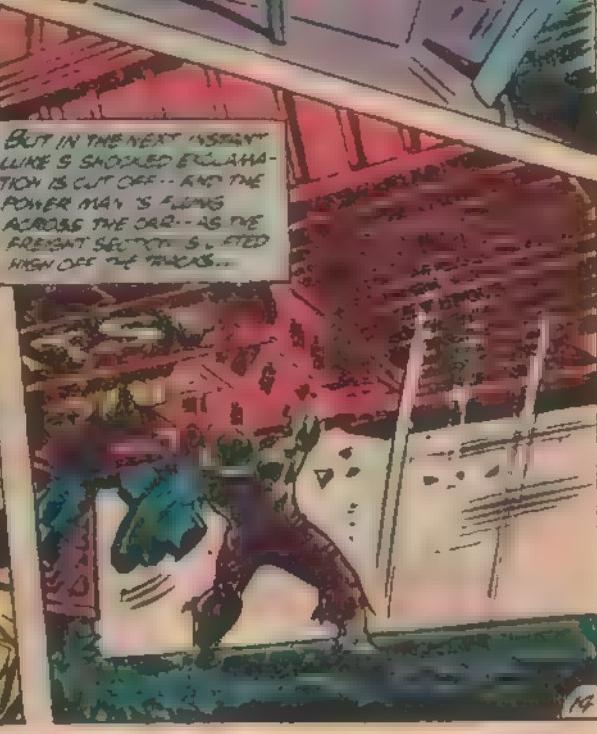


LUKE!
THOSE HANDS--
COMING THROUGH
THE SIDE OF THE CAR--
THEY'RE GREEN!

SCREEEEEEE

HOLEE
MAMA! IT'S--

BUT IN THE NEXT INSTANT LUKE'S SHOCKED EXHALATION IS CUT OFF--AND THE POWER MAN'S FLEW ACROSS THE CAR--AS THE FREIGHT SECTION GOT PULLED HIGH OFF THE TRACKS...



AND LITERALLY
RIPPED IN TWO!

YES, HULK WAS RIGHT!
THIS IS THE TRAIN HE WAS
LOOKING FOR!

LORDY, THE HULKS
ATTACKED US!
BUT WHY?



AND EVEN AS CASE IS
SPUN OUT ONTO THE
GROUND IN THE OTHER
HALF OF THE RAIL CAR
IRON FIST FINDS HIMSELF .

TRAPPED! THE IMPACT HAS JAMMED THE OPEN END INTO THE GROUND!

MEANWHILE OUTSIDE .

MAH! HERE IS THE
METAL BOX HULK
WAS SENT FOR
THIS WILL BE
EASY!



NOT AS EASY AS YOU THINK, HULK!
I'M SUPPOSED TO GUARD THE
METAL BOX - AN I'M NOT LETTIN'
YOU TAKE IT WITHOUT A FIGHT!

??
LITTLE MAN WANTS
A FIGHT?

ALL RIGHT! THEN
HULK WILL GIVE YOU
A FIGHT!



AND WHILE THE HULK MERCILESSLY
PUMMELS POWER MAN...

...IRON FIST IS TRYING TO FIND A
WAY TO FREEDOM!

THE WALLS OF THIS THING ARE
SOLID STEEL. I COULD BE STUCK
IN HERE FOR HOURS...

--BUT FORTUNATELY, I HAVE
WHAT LUKE WOULD PROBABLY
CALL AN "ACE IN THE HOLE!"

..SUMMONING UP HIS
CHI-- THE FULL POWER
OF HIS INNEREST
STRENGTH!

AND, AS HE CON-
CENTRATES HE
CHANNELS THAT
POWER INTO HIS
FIST--

IRON FIST CONCENTRATES...

--CAUSING IT TO SWOLLEN
AND GLOW, UNTIL IT BECOMES...

LIKE UNTO
A THING OF
IRON!

LUKE, ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU LOOK AWFUL!

I FEEL
JUST ABOUT
AS GOOD,
FIST!

YA KNOW HOW
I SAID NO ONE
WOULD MESS
WITH US? WELL,
I WAS WRONG!

WE GOT BIG
TROUBLE FIST
HULK
TROUBLE!

SEVERAL MILES AWAY FROM THE SITE OF THE DERAILLED TRAIN, SITS A MODEST LITTLE A-FRAME COTTAGE.

BUT THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FAMILY NEVER HAS A GUEST LIKE THIS ONE!

IT'S THE SORT OF PLACE THAT MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES SCRIMP AND SAVE TO BUY FOR SUMMER ENTERTAINING.



HERE, NIGHTSHADE-- HULK HAS BROUGHT YOU THE METAL BOX YOU WANTED!

HE DID IT! HE ACTUALLY DID IT!

TH-THANK YOU, HULK--

-- JUST SET IT ON THE TABLE' HERE, HAVE A SEAT! YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER JUMPING ALL THAT WAY!

HE IS SMARTER THAN PEOPLE THINK. HE HAD TO FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LETTER TO GET THAT CIRCUIT!

BUT, WHILE NIGHTSHADE HAS GAINED NEW RESPECT FOR THE HULK'S INTELLIGENCE, SHE HAS SERIOUSLY OVER-ESTIMATED THE STRENGTH OF HER CHOIRS!

WHAT?



BAH! NO STUPID CHAIR MAKES A FOOL OF THE HULK!

OH, LORD! HE'S CRUSHING IT TO BITS I HAVE TO CALM HIM DOWN OR HE'LL RIP THE WHOLE PLACE APART!

IT'S OKAY, HULK-SUGAR! JUST FORGET ABOUT THAT DUMB OL' CHAIR!

ALL RIGHT, HULK WILL DO IT FOR YOU, NIGHTSHADE! YOU ARE GOOD TO THE HULK... NOT LIKE THE OTHERS WHO TRY TO TRICK ME!

ONE DAY, HULK WILL HAVE HIS REVENGE ON THEM!



JUST WHAT THE HULK'S REVENGE WOULD BE REMAINS UNSPOKEN--

...BUT IT IS ALL NIGHTSHADE CAN DO TO REPRESS HER SHUDDERS OF SHEER, STARK TERROR!



THE MEN and the MACHINE

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, THE LITTLE TRAIN STATION ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF WILLOUGHBY, TENNESSEE, IS CAUGHT UP IN A WHIRLWIND OF ACTIVITY!

STATIONMASTER FOREST MOGBAUGH HASN'T SEE SO MUCH COMMOTION SINCE HARRY TRUMAN CAME THROUGH THESE PARTS IN '48. BUT BACK THEN ALL FOREST HAD TO CONTEND WITH WERE SECRET SERVICE MEN.

TODAY, HIS STATION IS PRACTICALLY TAKEN OVER BY THE STATE TROOPERS, A COUPLE OF BIG-CITY FELLOWS IN Z-ZAY SUITS AND THREE DOUBLE-SHOOTERS FROM DELMAR INSURANCE!

WILLOUGHBY
BORN 1872

OH, SURE! YOU DID A GREAT JOB CAGE! I TOLD BROCK JONES IT WAS A MISTAKE TO HIRE OUTSIDERS!

GIMME A BREAK, HARRIS. I'D HAVE LIKED TO SEEN YOU DO BETTER AGAINST THE HULK!

HERE'S YOUR TEA, SONNY!

THANK YOU, MR MOGBAUGH!

MHHHH!

THE HULK?

TRUTH TO TELL, THE OLD STATIONMASTER'S JUST A LITTLE IMPRESSED TO HAVE THE HEROES FOR HIRE AROUND. IT'S THE INSURANCE PEOPLE WHO ANNOY HIM THE MOST!

THE MAN ASKING ALL THE QUESTIONS -- EDWARD HARARYS -- IS JUST TOO SELF-IMPORTANT FOR FOREST'S TASTES AND THE WOMAN -- MAGGIE JONES -- HAS BEEN WATCHING IRON FIST WITH A LOOK THAT RESPECTABLE WOMEN SHOULDN'T USE!

THE THIRD MAN -- AARON STACK -- IS PROBABLY ALRIGHT. THINKS FOREST AT LEAST. STACK SEEMS QUIET AND RESPECTFUL...

BUT THAT QUIET EXTERIOR HIDES
MANY SECRETS... NOT THE LEAST OF
WHICH IS THE FACT THAT AARON
STACK IS NOT QUITE HULK MAN!

EDDIE DIDN'T TELL
ME THAT THE
HULK WAS
INVOLVED! THIS
SUDDENLY
MAKES THE
CASE A LOT
MORE SERIOUS!

"IT WAS JUST A FEW
MONTHS AGO THAT I--AS
MACHINE MAN--ROUGHT
THE HULK IN CALIFORNIA! I
I WAS AT MY MAXIMUM
POWER OUTPUT DURING
THAT BATTLE--

--BUT I STILL
COULDNT STOP
HIM FROM LEVELING
MOST OF THE CITY!"



"INCREDIBLE HULK" 235-237 --D.

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO TEMPORARILY
DEFEAT HIM THROUGH A BIT OF TRICKERY.
IF HE'S CAUGHT UP IN THIS THIS ROBBERY,
WE COULD ALL BE IN DANGER!

MR CAGE, DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA--?

HOLD IT,
AARON! I'M IN
CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION!
I'LL QUESTION CAGE--YOU GO
TALK TO THE POLICE, IF YOU
WANT TO BE
USEFUL!



I KNEW I'D
REGRET TAKING
THIS JOB!

IF I LET EDDIE
HANDLE THIS HIS
WAY, I'LL NEVER FIND
OUT HOW THE HULK
IS INVOLVED!

I'LL HAVE TO GET
HIM OUT OF THE
WAY... AND I THINK
I KNOW HOW!

SO AARON AND THE
SWAMES BEHIND THE
STATION AARON PUTS HIS
PLAN INTO ACTION...



I'M ALMOST DIRECTLY UNDER
THE PHONE LINES NOW ALL I
HAVE TO DO IS ACTIVATE THE
RADIO-WAVE MODE OF MY
THROAT'S SPEECH CONTROL
CENTER--



-- AND RADIATE THE
PROPER FREQUENCY TONE
TO AFFECT THE PHONE IN
THE STATION OFFICE!"



WILLOUGHBY STATION!
MOSBAUGH SPEAKIN'!

DO YOU HAVE A
THERE? IT'S REAL
URGENT THAT I
TALK TO HIM!

HARRIS?
OH, THE INSUR-
ANCE MAN!
YEAH...

--HOLD ON A
MINUTE! I'LL
GET HIM FOR
YA!

THANKS,
MAC!

SHORTLY...

EDDIE, I BEEN
CALLIN' ALL OVER
FOR YA THAT
IRISH SOCCER
TEAM YOU BET
ON. IT'S PAVIN'
OFF... SO-TO-
ONE!

WOW!

WHOOPEE! I
KNEW BETTING
THE ODDS ON
SOCCER WOULD
PAY OFF SOMEDAY!

I'M
GONNA
BE RICH...
RICH!

HEY, MAGGIE--I HAVE
TO FLY BACK TO
NEW YORK AT ONCE! TELL
STACK THAT HE'S IN
CHARGE!

I MORE MY MEMORY
BANKS ARE ADEQUATELY
DUPPLATATE THE VOICE
OF EDDIE'S BOOKIE...
I ONLY HEARD HIS
VOICE ONCE!

YA CAN SAY THAT
AGAIN! YA GOTTA
GET BACK HERE
RIGHT AWAY!

HE'S IN
CHARGE!

WHY YOU MISERABLE
WORM! WHAT ABOUT
ME? I'M AS CAPABLE
AS ME IS!

I'M
BETTER!

OH, THIS IS JUST GREAT! WELL
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO FIND
THAT COLD FISH STACK!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE STATION
HEN'S ROOM, ARCH STACK IS
EFFECTIVELY DISAPPEARING!

OKAY, THE STREET CLOTHES
ARE ALL FOLDED NEATLY, AND
READY TO BE STASHED IN THE
HOLLOW OF MY
RIGHT THIGH!

ALL I HAVE TO DO
NOW IS REMOVE MY
COLLAPSIBLE HELMET
SECTION FROM MY
LEFT-LEG STORAGE
COMPARTMENT.

--AND MACHINE MAN
IS READY TO FLY
AGAIN!

AND THE SOONER I GET OUT OF HERE, THE BETTER! THIS IS HARDLY THE CLEANEST PLACE I'VE EVER CHANGED IDENTITIES!

MY OL' FACTORY CIRCUITS HAVEN'T PUT UP WITH SUCH A STENCH SINCE I HAD TO GO INTO MANHATTAN'S SEWERS AFTER BARRY WHITHERSPOON! *

YANKING OPEN THE WINDOW WITH HIS TELESCOPING ARM THE AMAZING LIVING ROBOT ACTIVATES HIS ELECTROMAGNETIC GRID--CANCELLING THE EFFECT OF GRAVITY--

--AND HE ARCS UP INTO THE SKIES!

NOW FOR MY GRAND ENTRANCE!

GOOD MORNING GENTLEMEN PARTON ME FOR DROPPING IN UNANNOUNCED BUT I BELIEVE WE SHARE A COMMON ADVERSARY.

THE HULK!

WHO WHAT IS THAT?

* SEE MACHINE MAN ON D

MERRY SAKES ALIVE!

CHRISTMAS! NOW WHAT?

I GUESS MY FAME DOESN'T PRECEDE ME! I AM ROBOT X-51, MORE POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE MACHINE MAN!

YEE-EAH! YOU'RE THE METAL OLDE THAT SENATOR BRICKMAN'S ALWAYS RANTIN' AN' RAVIN' ABOUT!

YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT YOU'VE FOUGHT THE HULK?

I'LL SAY HE DID! I READ ALL ABOUT IT IN THE ENQUIRER! THEY EVEN RUN SOME PICTURES OF IT... THAT MUSTA BEEN SOME TUGGLE!

YES, WELL I'M NOT SURE HOW ACCURATE THE PRINTED ACCOUNTS WERE, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT FIGHTING THE HULK WAS NO EASY TASK!

NO FOOLIN' AT ALL, MR. CAGE BE THAT AS IT MAY, I HEARD ABOUT YOUR PROBLEM HERE, AND I THOUGHT I'D VOLUNTEER MY HELP.

NO FOOLIN'!

WITH THE FINGER SENSORS IN MY HAND UNIT, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET A FIX ON THE MILD GAMMA RADIATION EMITTED BY THE HULK!

LEMME GET THIS STRAIGHT! YOU WANT US TO GET TOGETHER WITH YOU AN' TRACK DOWN THE HULK?

CORRECT!

AN' JUST WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH HIM, ONCE WE FIND HIM?

THAT DOES PRESENT A PROBLEM. HOWEVER, I THINK THAT THE THREE OF US, WORKING AS A TEAM, COULD POSSIBLY SUBDUE HIM!

BESIDES, YOU CAN'T JUST SIT HERE, CAN YOU? IT WOULDN'T BE VERY GOOD FOR YOUR BUSINESS IF YOU BLEW THIS CASE!

HE HAS A POINT, LUKE! YEAH, I GUESS WE GOT NO CHOICE, BUT I AIN'T LOOKIN' FORWARD TO THIS. I'VE FOUGHT AROUND THE HULK BEFORE... WITH A BUNCH'A DUDES CALLED THE DEFENDERS!

WE'LL HAVE TO BE REAL CAREFUL HE'S A MEAN MOTHER IN A FIGHT!

HEY--

--WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THE INSURANCE COMPANY FOLKS?

A VERY GOOD QUESTION!

I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO INVOLVE ANY ORDINARY HUMANS IN THIS, POWER MAN... NOT WHERE THE HULK IS CONCERNED!

GET IN THE WAY? WELL! WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, MISTER CAGE!

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME
THEY'D JUST GET IN THE WAY ANYHOW.

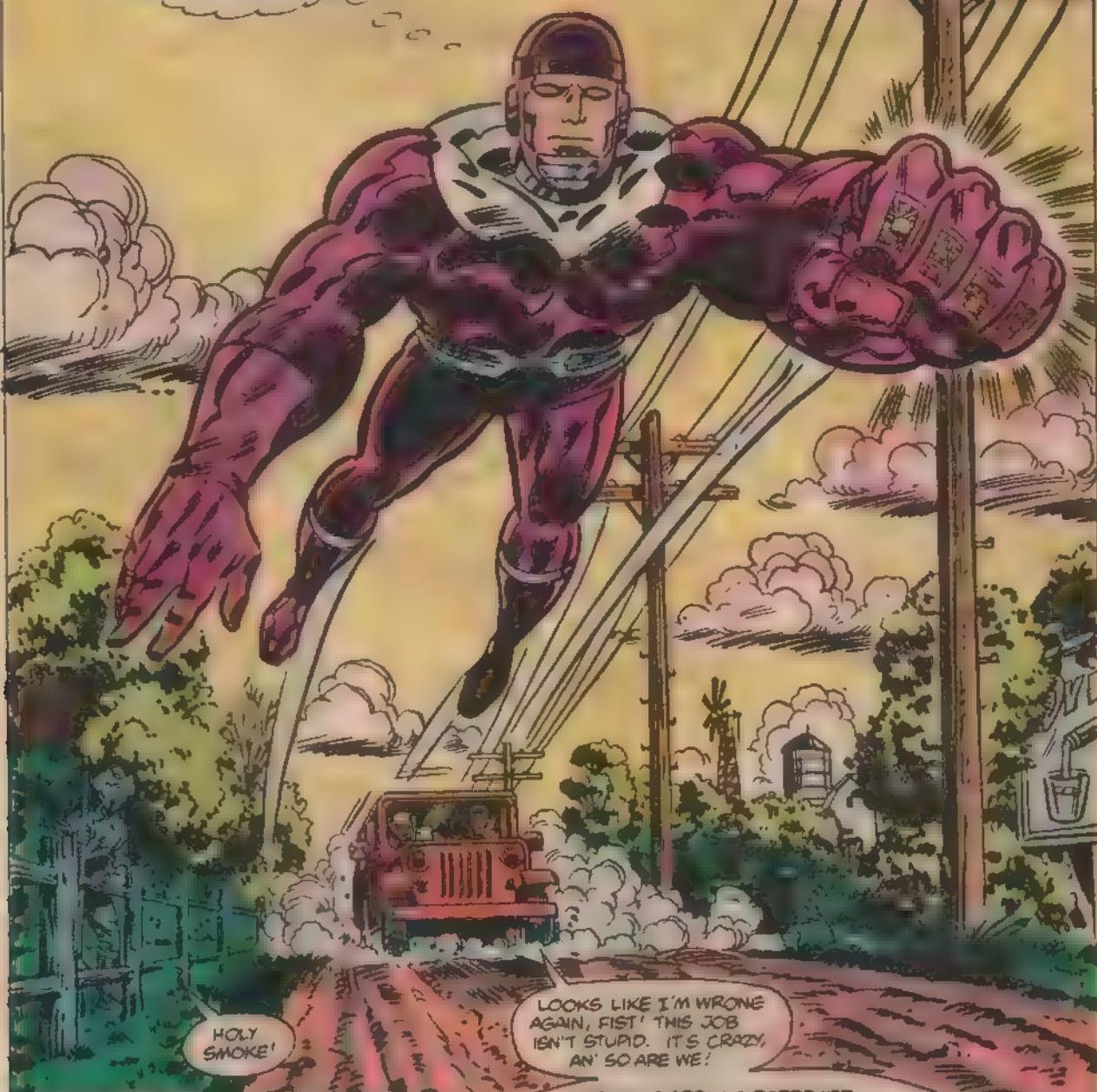




CONFRONTATIONS

BY MID-MORNING, THE QUIET BACK-COUNTRY ROADS ARE SUDDENLY TREATED TO THE AMAZING SPECTACLE OF A LIVING, FLYING ROBOT FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY A JEEP BEARING TWO HIRED HEROES!

MY FINGER SENSORS ARE STARTING TO REACT TO THE HULK'S PECULIAR GAMMA EMISSIONS. HE MUST BE SOMEWHERE NEARBY!



HOLY SMOKE!
LOOKS LIKE I'M WRONG AGAIN. FIST' THIS JOB ISN'T STUPID. IT'S CRAZY, AN' SO ARE WE!

HERE WE ARE IN A BORROWED JEEP--IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE-- FOLLOWING SOME ROBOT TO FIGHT THE HULK! WE JUST GOTTA BE MORE SELECTIVE IN THE JOBS WE TAKE!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, LUKE--IT IS ODD! WE'VE BOTH FOUGHT ROBOTS, BUT... WELL, I NEVER EXPECTED TO MEET A SENTIENT ONE!

YEAH, AIN'T SCIENCE WONDERFUL? STRANGE AS IT SOUNDS THOUGH, I TRUST THAT MACHINE MAN SLICKER! I GOT ME A HUNCH THAT WE ALL HAVE SOMETHIN' IN COMMON.

I MEAN, I WOUND UP IN AN ACCIDENT THAT GAVE ME STEEL-HARD SKIN... YOU SPENT MOST OF YOUR LIFE IN SOME HIDDEN MYSTIC CITY...

AN' MACHINE MAN IS A FREAKIN' ROBOT! GURE, WE'RE NOTHIN' ALIKE, BUT WE'RE ALL... I DUNNO. OUTSIDERS I GUESS. WE'RE DIFFERENT FROM EVERYBODY!

AN' HERE WE ARE--THE THREE OF US--LOOKING FOR THE BIGGEST OUTSIDER OF 'EM ALL... THE HULK!

FUNNY HOW LIFE WORKS!

BUT AS THE JEEP BOUNCES DOWN THE OLD DIRT ROAD CAGE AND AROU FIST ARE UNAWARE OF A THIRD PASSENGER IN THEIR VEHICLE...

--CAREFULLY HIDEN BEHIND A MUSLY CANVAS TARALI.

WATCH! I D ALMOST THINK THEY WERE HITTING THOSE BUMPS ON PURPOSE!

BUT IT'S WORTH IT! I'VE GOT THE JUMP ON EDDIE AND AARON--I'LL HAVE THIS CAGE CRACKED BEFORE THEY EVEN KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!

AND WHILE MAGGIE TAKES HER LUMPS...

HEY, M.M.--YOU PICKIN' ME UP ON YOUR BUILT-IN RADIO?
ROGER.
POWER MAN...

--LOUD AND CLEAR.

I'M CERTAIN THE HULK IS IN THIS AREA I'M GOING HIGHER TO GET A BETTER FIX ON HIM!

GOTCHA!

BACK AND FORTH, THE MACHINE MAN SWOOPS ACROSS THE SKIES LIKE SOME BIG METALLIC EAGLE. AND THEN . . .

WAIT! THE EMISSION LEVEL JUMPED RADICALLY AS I PASSED OVER THAT HOUSE!

YES, I HAVE! MAKE THE NEXT TURN RIGHT! ABOUT 30 YARDS DOWN THAT ROAD IS AN A-FRAME DWELLING--



YOU GOT ANYTHIN' YET, DEEP PURPLE?



-- WHICH HAS A HIGH BIO-GAMMA LEVEL. IT HAS TO BE THE HULK.

I'M GOING ON IN-- MEET ME THERE!

HEY, WHAT'S HIS MURRY? TELL 'IM TO WAIT, FIST!



BUT THE LIVING ROBOT HAS NO INTENTON OF WAITING...

GAMMA LEVELS ARE SUDENLY INCREASING!



ONCE AGAIN ALLOWING GRAVITY TO TAKE HOLD OF HIM, MACHINE MAN PLUMMETS TOWARDS THE LITTLE HIDE-AWAY--FASTER AND FASTER--



-- UNTIL...



BUT, INSIDE... WHAT?" I FIGURED I COULD TAKE THE HULK BY SURPRISE, BUT NOT THIS MUCH OF A SURPRISE! ALL THE NOISE AND COMMOTION I CAUSED DIDN'T EVEN WAKE HIM!

WAIT A MINUTE... "WAKE HIM?"

IF HE'S ASLEEP, WHY WAS THERE A SUDDEN GAMMA-RELEASE?

WELL, THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!



OUT OF THE JEEP COMES TO A SCREECHING HALT. THE MEN LEAP FROM THEIR SEATS AND LAND RUNNING...



...AND IN THE BACK OF THE JEEP

I'M GOING TO BE BLACK AND BLUE FOR A WEEK! WHEN THIS IS OVER, I'M GOING TO GIVE THOSE TWO A PIECE OF MY MIND!



BUT, THERE'S A BIG SURPRISE AWAITS ANOTHER 15 FEET FROM THE COTTAGE...

HELLO, GENTLE MEN ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER!



CHRISTMAS! YOU
MEAN WE CAME
ALL THIS WAY AFTER
THE HULK, AND ALL
WE FIND IS HIS
SKINNY OTHER
SELF?

JUST WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?

PLEASE, MR. CAGE,
I'M A LITTLE FUZZY ON
THINGS MYSELF I
FEEL A LITTLE
GROGGY.

NOT SURPRISING, DOCTOR. WHO-
EVER USED THE HULK TO COMMIT
THAT TRAIN ROBBERY, ALSO MUST
HAVE GIVEN HIM THIS BOWL OF
FOOD. AND IT'S LACED WITH A
HEAVY SEDATIVE

IT RELAXED YOU ENOUGH
TO CHANGE YOU BACK TO
NORMAL.

TRAIN
ROBBERY--?

DON'T GIVE ME THAT WIDE-
EYED INNOCENCE ACT, BANNER!
YOU KNOW DARNED WELL ABOUT
THE TRAIN ROBBERY!

WHO--?

NOW--

WHAT?

OH, NO

THE NAME'S MAGGIE
JONES, DR. BANNER-- AND
I'M WITH THE DELMAR
INSURANCE COMPANY. I
WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU
DID WITH THE RAND-
MEACHUM COMPUTER
CIRCUIT!

MAYBE YOU CAN FOOL THESE COSTUMED IDIOTS
WITH THAT OLD AMNESIA STORY, BUT YOU DON'T
FOOL ME!

NOW, WHERE
IS IT? I WANT
ANSWERS!

MS. JONES, I
REALLY CAN'T
HELP YOU WHEN
I BELIEVE THE
HULK IS ANOTHER
PERSON. ANY
MEMORIES I HAVE
OF WHAT HE DOES
ARE VAGUE AT
BEST!

I'VE BEEN AN
INSURANCE
INVESTIGATOR
A LONG TIME,
BANNER, AND
I DON'T BUY
THAT!

YOU'RE ONE OF THE
WORLD'S BIGGEST
BRAINS WHEN IT COMES
TO PHYSICS, AREN'T
YOU?

WELL, I THINK
YOU TURNED
INTO THE HULK
TO STEAL THAT
CIRCUIT!

NO BLUFFS! NOW,
WHERE IS IT?

HOLD IT MAMA!
DON'T GIVE THE
MAN A-ARD
TIME. YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE GETTIN'
INTO

I KNOW THERE'S A
CIRCUIT MISSING, CAGE
THAT'S ALL I CARE
ABOUT NOW. TALK,
BANNER... TALK!

HEY!

DON'T THINK
YOU CAN FOOL
ME WITH A
"SICK" ACT,
EITHER!

I'M NOT ACTING--
AND I'M NOT
SICK. LEAVE ME
ALONE! YOU HEAR
ME? JUST

LEAVE
ME...

...ALONE!

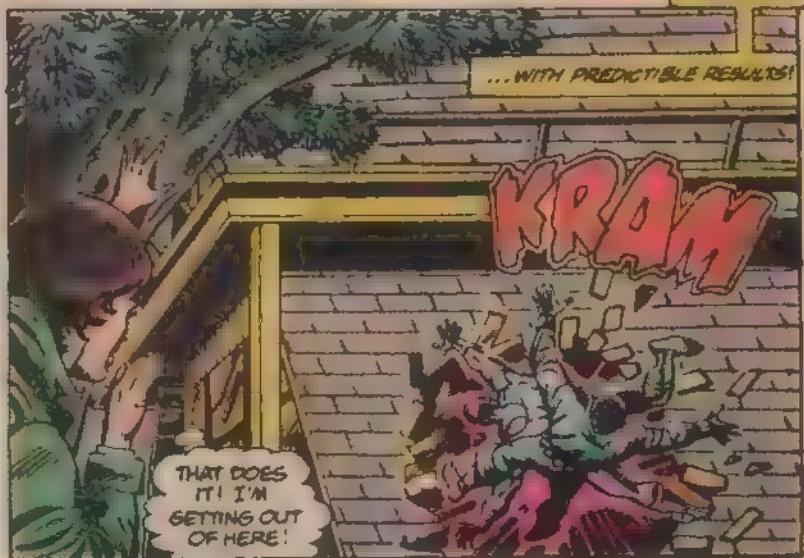
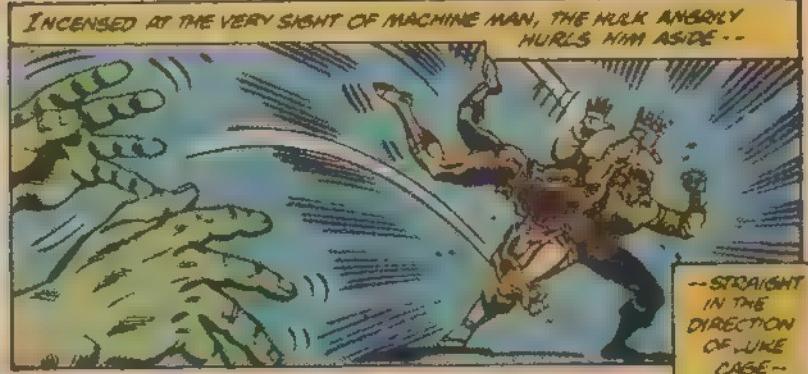
OH, MY
GOD!
W-WHAT--?

WHAT DO YOU THINK,
WOMAN? YOU JUST
NAGGED THE POOR
MAN INTO BEIN'--





* INCREDIBLE HULK # 237. -- D



ONLY ONE TRUCK
LEFT TO ME NOW

IT'S A GOOD THING IT
HAS BEEN SEVERAL
HOURS SINCE I LAST
USED THE IRON FIST--

--BECAUSE I'LL NEED
TO GIVE THIS SHOT
EVERY BIT OF POWER
I CAN MUSTER!

SHRAG

TO HIS
CREDIT IT'S
PERHAPS THE
FIGHTEST
BLOW WHICH
IRON FIST HAS
EVER STRUCK!

HOWEVER . . .

UH-OH . . .

UHH . . .

YOU TRIED TO HURT
THE HULK . TO
BURN HIM!

WELL, LITTLE MAN,
THAT MAKES YOU
HULK'S ENEMY,
TOO!

WAIT,
HULK!

LKE?

I AIN'T OUTTA ACTION YET FIST

YOU WANNA HIT ON SOMEBODY,
HULK DO YOUR HITTIN' ON ME

SO, YOU WANT TO FIGHT THE HULK, DO YOU?

NO, HULK, THAT AIN'T WHAT I WANT. BUT IF YOU'RE SET ON HITTIN' SOMEBODY, HIT ME. I CAN TAKE IT BETTER!

UNH? YOU WOULD JUST STAND AND LET HULK HIT YOU?

I KNOW IT DOESN'T SOUND REAL SMART, BUT I GUESS I WOULD. IF IT'D MAKE YA LISTEN.

HULK WAS TRICKED, ALL RIGHT... BY HIM!

WHOA, THERE HULK! I KNOW YOU'VE HAD IT OUT WITH THE MACHINE DUDE BEFORE, BUT HE'S WITH US NOW... AN HE'S OKAY!

THAT'S RIGHT, HULK. WHATEVER I'VE DONE IN THE PAST, I'VE DONE FOR YOUR GREATER GOOD! WE ALL WANT TO HELP YOU.

NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE TO HULK,

LOOK, MAN--YA GOTTA ADMIT IT MAKES SENSE THAT WE'D RATHER FIGHT WITH YA, THEN AGAINST YA! AFTER ALL, NOBODY'S STRONGER THAN YOU, RIGHT?

YES, THAT IS TRUE.

GOOD 'LEAST THERE'S SOMETHIN' WE CAN AGREE ON NOW. WHERE'S THAT BOX YO TOOK FROM THE TRAIN?

THE GIRL, HULK--WHAT DID SHE LOOK LIKE?

WHERE? HULK DOESN'T KNOW GALE TO GIRL SHE SAID IT WAS HER'S

OH, I BET IT--SHE'S BLACK! NOW ALL WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT IS WHO THE SISTER IS!

HUH? HULK COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT!

GIRL LOOKED LIKE YOU, CAGE.

LIKE ME?"

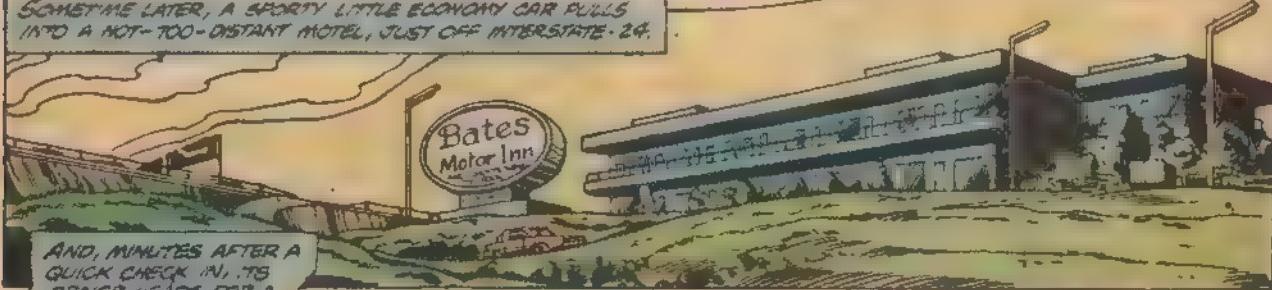
GIRL CALLED HERSELF NIGHTSHADE!

NIGHTSHADE?! I THOUGHT SHE WAS STILL IN PRISON!

I TAKE IT YOU KNOW THIS NIGHTSHADE PERSON.

BRO-THER! DO WE!

SOME TIME LATER, A SPORTY LITTLE ECONOMY CAR PULLS
INTO A HOT-TOO-DISTANT MOTEL, JUST OFF INTERSTATE 24.



AND, MINUTES AFTER A
QUICK CHECK IN, THE
DRIVER HEADS FOR A
SECLUDED SECOND-
STORY ROOM



OH, YEAH'
THIS'LL DO
JUST FINE!

HOW DELICIOUSLY
FUNNY THAT AN
ORDINARY MOTEL ROOM
HAS EVERYTHING ELSE
I NEED TO GET ALL THE
POWER I'VE EVER
WANTED!

'COURSE, IT
ALL
BEGINS--

--WITH THIS LITTLE
CIRCUIT. I'M GLAD
I HAD THE HULK
OPEN THAT NASTY
CONTAINER. IT'S
SO MUCH EASIER TO
CARRY THIS IN A
COAT POCKET.

WELL, I DON'T
NEED THAT OL'
COAT NOW! JUST
HAVE TO OPEN MY
SUITCASE--

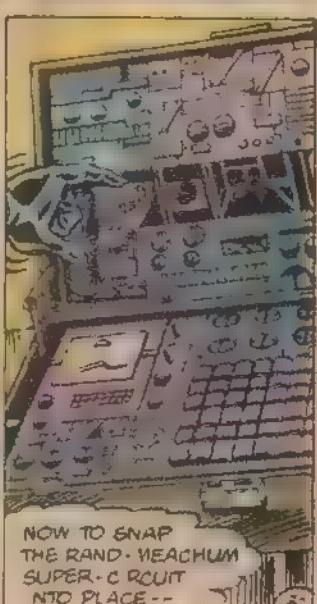
--WITH ITS BUILT-IN
REMOTE COMPUTER
TERMINAL, AN' I'M
ALMOST READY TO
START!



THE MOTEL TV SET WILL
PROVIDE ME WITH THE
'LECTRICITY AND THE
VIDEO DISPLAY I
NEED--



WITH JUST A
CLIP OF THE
RECEIVER!



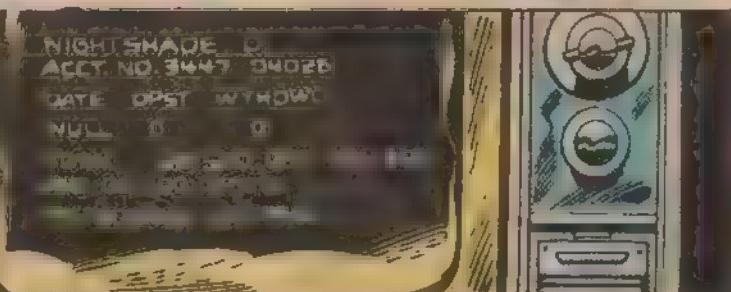
NOW TO SNAP
THE RAND-MEACHUM
SUPER-C CIRCUIT
INTO PLACE--

--AN' WE'LL
SEE IF IT CAN DO
WHAT THE RAND-
MEACHUM
TECHNICAL
BOYS THINK
IT CAN'

FROM THE BUGS I HAD PLANTED
IN THEIR LABS, I GATHERED THAT
IT COULD DO JUST ABOUT
ANYTHING.

WELL, I KNOW
JUST THE
"ANYTHINGS"
TO TEST IT!

PLAYING THE KEYBOARD WITH THE SKILL OF AN
ACCOMPLISHED PROGRAMMER, A GATESHADE
CALLS UP A NETWORK OF FILE-SHARING
COMPUTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



FOR FULLY FIVE MINUTES, NIGHTSHADE SITS STARING AT HER PIRATED BANK BALANCE AND THEN BREATH CATCHING IN HER THROAT SHE CLEARS THE BOARD AND STARTS PLAYING THE BOARD AGAIN.



NO . OH, NOT!
NOT YOU...NOT
NOW!

HEY, NIGHTSHADE! AIN'T SEEN YOU SINCE
THAT LITTLE DISAGREEMENT WE HAD
BACK IN THE SOUTH BRONX! *

FANCY RUNNIN'
INTO YOU IN THESE
PARTS!

YES WE HOPE YOU DON'T MIND
US BARGING IN LIKE THIS BUT
OUR FRIEND HERE HAS A MATTER
TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

GIRL
LIED TO
HULK!!

A FAYER MAYA
IS A FAYE FAYE SORRY

-- NIGHTSHADE TRIES
TO ESCAPE VIA THE
BALCONY, BUT...

HELLO, I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE MET.. BUT
CAGE TELLS ME YOU'VE WORKED WITH
ROBOTS BEFORE!

IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE!

OH IT'S QUITE
POSSIBLE YOU WERE
EASY TO FIND.
YOU KNOW

UM...
WELL...
'BYE!'

AFTER WE FOLLOWED
THE HEAT TRAIL OF YOUR ODD
AIRCRAFT TO WHERE YOU
ABANDONED IT, FOLLOWING
THE MUDDY TIRE TRACKS OF
YOUR CAR TOOK A LITTLE
TIME!

UM...
MISS?

SHE'S FAINTED
DEAD AWAY! IS
THIS THE WOMAN
CAGE WAS SO
UNEASY ABOUT?
SHE'S LITTLE
MORE THAN A
GIRL!

PUSHING OUT THE BACK
DOOR OF THE ROOM--

:EEPE:

SHORTLY...

EITHER I'M MORE SHOCKING THAN I THOUGHT, OR YOUR MS. NIGHTSHADE ISN'T AS TOUGH AS YOU BELIEVE.

I KNOW I HAVE A HARD TIME ACCEPTING HER AS A CRIMINAL MASTERMIND!

CHRISTMAS! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SCREEN AN' THEN TELL ME SHE AIN'T A PROBLEM!

LUKE, THAT PRINT-OUT CAN'T BE REAL-- CAN IT?

YOU TELL ME, FIST... YOU TELL ME.

GOOD LORD! IT'S REAL, ALL RIGHT! LET ME AT THAT KEYBOARD -- HURRY!

HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT DO FUNNY WORDS MEAN?

THEY MEAN WE'RE ABOUT 3-MINUTES AWAY FROM NUCLEAR ARMAGEDDON, HULK!

THANK HEAVENS, I CAN STILL COUNTERMAND THE PROGRAM! WHAT COULD NIGHTSHADE HAVE BEEN THINKING OF!

KNOWIN' HER, SHE WAS PLAYIN' CHICKEN! HERE--

--LEMMIE HOLD THAT CIRCUIT FOR SAFE KEEPIN'!

AW! GUESS I GRIPPED IT A LITTLE HARD! AIN'T THAT TOO BAD?



UHH? WHERE IS GIRL?

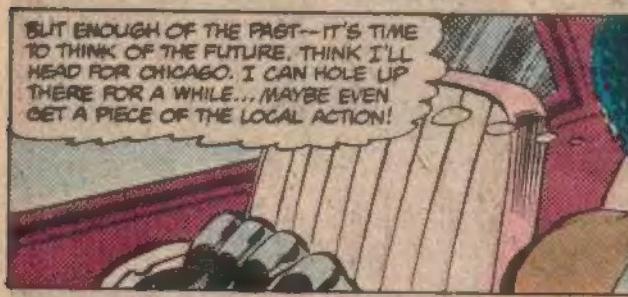
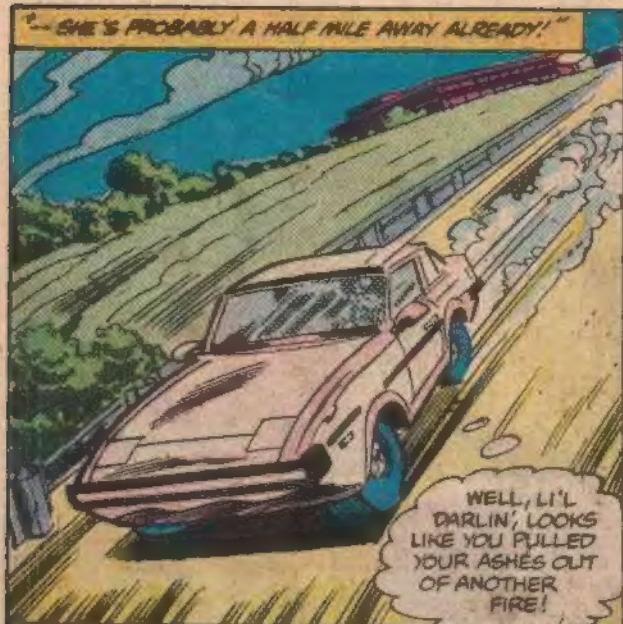
GONE! SHE WAS FAKING HER FAINT, AND WE FELL FOR IT!

SCREECHING TIRES

AND FROM THE SOUND OF THOSE SCREECHING TIRES--

SOV. WER. SYS... NUC. ARM
RED ALERT,... RED ALERT.
ACTIVATE T MINUS 3 MIN.
AND COUNTING... MARK....

NORAD COMSAT ACTIVATE
DWLINE IMMEDIATE
MINMN DFNSE RED ALERT
LAUNCH T MINUS 3 MIN
AND COUNTING... MARK.



FIRST, NIGHTSHADE PLAYS TRICKS ON HULK... THEN, SHE PLAYS TRICKS ON HULK'S FRIENDS AND RUNS. NOW, WHEN HULK CATCHES HER, SHE CRIES!

BAH! SHE'S NOT WORTH HULK'S TIME TO SMASH!

HULK HAS HAD ENOUGH. IT'S TIME TO LEAVE.



TURNING SUDDENLY, THE EMERALD MAN-MONSTER LEAPS OFF, DISAPPEARING INTO THE SKIES--

--AND LEAVING THE AUTHORITIES WITH ONE SLIGHTLY SOSHY SUSPECT.

I-I WAS GONNA STOP THAT!

MISSY, I THINK YOU GOT A LOT OF QUESTIONS TO ANSWER!



THE NEXT DAY, BACK AT THE NEW YORK OFFICES OF HEROES FOR HIRE...

SOMETIMES, I JUST DON'T BELIEVE YOU TWO! YOU NOT ONLY LOST THE CIRCUIT--

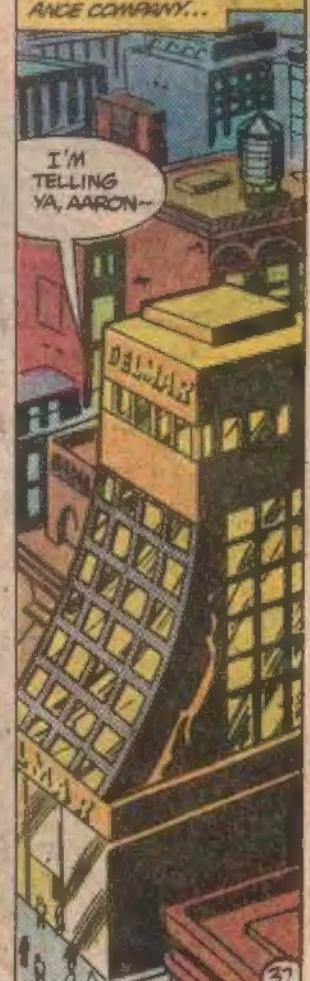
--BUT WHEN YOU RECOVERED IT, YOU BROKE IT! HOW COULD YOU FLUB SUCH AN EASY ASSIGNMENT?

WELL, JENNIE, WE CAN'T WIN THEM ALL! RIGHT, LUCAS?



MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN, IN THE OFFICES OF THE DELMAR INSURANCE COMPANY...

I'M TELLING YA, AARON--



--THE BOSS JUST CAME WITHIN AN INCH OF FIRING ME FOR LEAVING YOU IN THE FIELD.

WHAT'S MORE, MY BOOKIE CLAIMS HE NEVER CALLED ME! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK!

YEAH, BUT THIS ONE WAS A DOOZY!

HEY, MAGGIE! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

THOSE BLASTED "HEROES" LEFT ME STRANDED IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE! AND YOU, AARON STACK--YOU TOOK OFF FOR NEW YORK WITHOUT ME! I HAD TO HITCHHIKE BACK!

HEH-HEH! YOU'RE A COMPLETE MESS!

OH, SO YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY THAT I'M A MESS, DO YOU? WELL, LET'S SEE HOW FUNNY I CAN MAKE YOU LOOK!

I WOULDN'T WORRY, EDDIE. WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES.

DON'T TALK TO ME, YOU MONSTER! YOU'RE BOTH MONSTERS!

N-NOW, MAGGIE! REMEMBER YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE!

DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN!

YES, PAM, I'M AFRAID SO! YOU KNOW, IN AN ODD SORT OF WAY, THEY ACTUALLY MAKE AN... EH... INTERESTING COUPLE.

THAT'S THE FINAL REPORT ON THE RAND-MEACHUM JOB, ISN'T IT? WELL... WHAT ARE THE DAMAGES?

THAT'S JUST IT, AARON--THERE AREN'T ANY! DESPITE THEIR LOSS, RAND-MEACHUM ISN'T FILING A CLAIM! IN FACT, THEY'VE RENEWED THEIR POLICY!

THEY AREN'T? THEY HAVE? YOU'RE JOKING!

RAND HIMSELF INTERCEDED? THAT'S ODD... I WONDER WHY?

NO, I'M NOT! EVIDENTLY, MR. DANIEL RAND THREW SOME WEIGHT AROUND AND PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR US WITH MS. MEACHUM.

AND AS AARON STACK PONDERS THE MYSTERIOUS WORKINGS OF THE HUMAN MIND, ACROSS TOWN DANIEL RAND REMOVES THE MASK OF IRON FIST AND LAUGHS... LOUD AND LONG!

WATCH FOR
THE
FURTHER
ADVENTURES
OF



POWER MAN AND IRON FIST



SOON
ON
SALE
MONTHLY